United Nations

Daily Highlights

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TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- Security Council decides to enlarge mandate of United Nations Observer Mission in El Salvador (ONUSAL) to include verification and monitoring of agreements to be signed in Mexico City on 16 January; extends Force's mandate until 31 October 1992 and calls upon both parties to respect agreements "scrupulously".

- Secretary-General, in London yesterday, expresses hope that Security Council summit in New York on 31 January will "mark new stage in dialogue between United Nations membership and the Secretariat".

- Total production and income in the world have fallen this year, for the first time since Second World War, according to update of United Nations 1991 World Economic Survey.

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The Security Council decided this afternoon to enlarge the mandate of the United Nations Observer Mission in El Salvador (ONUSAL) to include verification and monitoring of the implementation of the agreements, once they are signed in Mexico City on 16 January by the Government of El Salvador and the Frente Farabundo Martí para la Liberacion Nacional (FMLN), particularly the cease-fire agreement and the agreement on the establishment of a National Civil Police.

At the same time, the Council decided to extend ONUSAL's mandate until 31 October 1992 and called on both parties "to respect scrupulously and to implement in good faith" the commitments under the agreements to be signed in Mexico City. It also called on both sides to cooperate fully with ONUSAL in its task of verifying the implementation of the agreements.

The Council took that action by unanimously adopting resolution 729 (1992), by which it approved the Secretary-General's report of 10 January and welcomed his intention to convey shortly to the Council his recommendation to end the mandate of the United Nations Observer Group in Central America (ONUCA).

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By its decision, the Council further welcomed the agreements between the Government of El Salvador and the FMLN, stating that when implemented, the agreements would open the way for national reconciliation.

The Council also reaff[illegible] its support for the Secretary-General's continuing mission of go[illegible]fices with regard to the Central American peace process and asked him to report on developments relating to the present resolution, as well as on the operations of ONUSAL before the expiry of the new mandate period.

Speaking to correspondents following the meeting, Council President Sir David Hannay of the United Kingdom called the Council's decision "very important and crucial", because it provided the "underpinning" by the United Nations of the agreements to be signed in Mexico City. ONUSAL, he said, would be conducting "a major operation" in the reshaping of the Salvadoran national police force with a team of nearly 650 United Nations civilian police personnel made available to help the new national police force take up its new duties.

Earlier today, the Government of El Salvador and the Frente Farabundo Martí para la Liberacion Nacional (FMLN) announced that they had reached agreement early this morning on the pending issues in the negotiations in New York.

In a communiqué signed by both parties, the Government of El Salvador and the FMLN said that the way was clear for the final signature in Mexico City on Thursday of the El Salvador peace agreements. The communiqué was also signed by the Secretary-General's Personal Representative for Central America, Alvaro de Soto.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali returned to New York from London today. Before leaving London last night, he attended a dinner given in his honour by United Kingdom Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd.

In welcoming Mr. Boutros-Ghali to the United Kingdom on his first visit as Secretary-General, Mr. Hurd said that his new functions required both caution and courage, and he pledged his country's support for the new leader.

Responding, the Secretary-General said that only by ensuring democracy could poverty be attacked; it was in the interest of all to create pluralism, he said. The United Nations and its Secretariat, he added, formed "the linchpin of international cooperation".

Mr. Boutros Boutros-Ghali went on to say that he would spare no effort to streamline the international civil service, but, referring to the financial crisis of the United Nations, he said its "hand-to-mouth existence" was unworthy of an Organization striving to promote peace and understanding.

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He expressed hope that the United Kingdom-proposed Security Council summit, scheduled in New York on 31 January, would mark a new stage in the dialogue between the United Nations membership and the Secretariat.

Earlier yesterday, the Secretary-General had met with Mr. Hurd for a discussion on topics of common interest to the United Kingdom and the United Nations. He then met with Prime Minister John Major with whom he discussed various international questions, especially the forthcoming Security Council summit in New York.

Speaking briefly to the press after his meeting with the Prime Minister, the Secretary-General said the Council summit would be useful for the Secretariat and the "new mission" of the United Nations with regard to conflict resolution and preventive measures, as well as the promotion of human rights and democratic institutions. Mr. Boutros Boutros-Ghali added that the summit would help him personally in his new job.

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This year, for the first time since the Second World War, total production and income in the world have fallen, according to the latest update of the United Nations 1991 World Economic Survey.

In every other year, the survey says, the economic downturns in some countries were offset by economic growth in others. However, this year, economic decline is so widespread -- and so deep in eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union, now known as the Commonwealth of Independent States -- that it fully negates the positive impact of the more dynamic economies such as China, Japan, and several other Asian and Latin American countries.

Some of the world's economies have been severely disrupted by war and its aftermath or civil strife, as in Western Asia, Yugoslavia and a number of African countries. In addition, the survey says, the economic dislocations of countries in transition from centrally planned to market economies are causing large declines in output.

In its assessment of the world's major economies, the survey points at the unemployment rate of almost 7 per cent in the United States and that of Canada, which now exceeds 10 per cent. In the other major economy in outright recession, the United Kingdom and Northern Ireland, the unemployment rate rose above 8 per cent this summer, the survey says.
(E/1991/INF/11)

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